THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Widened to 10 metres.

(c) Work of all three level crossings has been completed in Dec., 96.

[Translation]

Extension of Financial Assistance for Development of Buddhist Tourist Centres

6435. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance was extended by the Government for execution of projects relating to the development of several Buddhist tourist centres during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance extended for each of these projects, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether these projects have been completed within their targetted time schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the projects yet to be completed showing their revised schedule?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has extended Central financial assistance to State/Union Territory Govts. for the following projects in Buddhist centres during the last three years:-

		(Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Tourist Complex Lama-Yuri (J&K)	17.12
2.	Refurbishment and Conservation of Hemis Monstary	19.79
3.	Conservation of Spituk/Pethub Monastary	23.97
4.	Launch at Nagarjuna Sagar (A.P.)	75.50
5.	Tourist Complex at Tabo (H.P.)	28.30
6.	Refurbishment Phedong Monastary	30.00
7.	Refrubishment Phensong Monastary	30.00
8.	Refurbishment Lachung Monastary	6.19
9.	Ellora Festival, Ellora	0.50
10.	Refurbishment of Monuments at Lalitgiri, Udaigiri, Ratnagiri (Orissa)	76.00
11.	Amenities Centre Dhauli (Orissa)	20.26

The implementation and completion of these projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and these projects are at various stages of implementation by the State Govts.

In addition the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund has provided a soft loan for two projects namely; Development of infrastructure along the Buddhist circuit in U.P. and Bihar for an approx. amount of Rs. 249.14 crores and Conservation and Development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra for an amount of Rs. 69.48 crores.

[English]

Recovery of Licence Fees

6436. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 19.20 crores were collected as Licence Fees from basic services holders during the year 1996-97 as against the estimated licence fee of Rs. 2074.72;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the basic services licence holders who have not paid the licence fee till 31.3.97; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the recovery of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The amount of Licence fee realised upto 31.3.97 is Rs. 116.718 crores from two companies which have signed the Licence Agreements.

(b) and (c) 12 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have so far been issued to 8 companies for providing Basic Telephone Service in 12 Telecom Circles. Out of these, only 2 companies have paid the licence fee and signed the licences. 4 companies holding 7 LOIs have filed Civil Suits in the High Court of Delhi against Government's order for invocation of their Earnest Money Bank Guarantees due to their failure to comply with tender provisions and their cases are sub-judice. Remaining 2 companies holding LOIs for 3 Circles are required to pay Licence Fee of Rs. 683.70 crores before signing the Licences.

(d) To expedite signing of remaining Licences, Government has made appropriate efforts to resolve the issues raised by them.

[Translation]

Speed Post Services

6437. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries to which Speed Post Service is available from Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the names of the countries likely to be included under this service during the year 1997?